

# Flood control possibilities for Malone area discussed

By Debora Hemminger

The citizens at a public meeting Tuesday night posed questions about the Malone neighborhood that were difficult to answer.

Larry Potratz from the Lincoln Urban Development Department tried to discuss alternatives for the 27 homes and businesses between O and R Streets and between 22nd and 27th Streets in an area with a 1 percent chance of flooding each year.

However, the citizens asked where the Northeast Radial, a proposed highway, was going to be placed. The citizens also asked Potratz if the UNL City Campus will expand into the Malone neighborhood.

The Northeast Radial would go from northeast Lincoln to downtown. Several

proposed routes go through Malone. Malone is directly east of the Abel Sandoz dormitory.

Potratz reminded the citizens that the meeting was to get input from the public about the alternatives so "we don't do anything wrong."

None of the citizens who were present live in the area being discussed.

Genevieve Logan, 2312 T St., said city representatives often come into the neighborhoods and ask for citizens' opinions when the city has already made up its mind.

Potratz said the meeting was part of an eight-step process to receive federal funds to correct potential flood areas.

Asked why the city is just now looking at the danger of flood in the Malone neighborhood, Potratz said, "We didn't know we

had this option."

Potratz, looking for general agreement, found the citizens needed more questions answered before they would give their opinion on the four-block area.

Four possibilities that Potratz presented were building water channels, removing or destroying the buildings, raising homes above the flood level or to do nothing.

Building water channels that would hold flood water and then carry it to Antelope Creek would cost \$6.5 to \$7 million, Potratz said.

Water detention areas could prevent flooding in an area north of O Street and west of 23rd Street.

To remove buildings from the Malone area, the city could buy them, move the residents and tear down the buildings. Another possibility is to move the homes

to other lots owned by the city.

Potratz said every attempt would be made to provide housing in the Malone area or close to the Malone neighborhood, perhaps in the Clinton neighborhood, just north of Malone.

The third possibility, raising homes above the flood level, could be paid either through flood loans by the city or by property owners buying flood insurance. To elevate the buildings, the foundation would be lifted and a new foundation would be built under it.

Being the oldest neighborhood in Lincoln, Logan said the buildings could crumble when they were lifted.

Kay Thompson, 2137 R St., asked that the group get together later when there is more information and time to consider the possibilities.

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## Professor: state's recession to be mild

By Patti Gallagher

All symptoms point to the fact that the nation is in a recession, but the Nebraska economy will be affected less than the national economic picture, according to Donald Pursell, director of the Bureau of Business Research at UNL.

Because the state depends more upon agriculture and agricultural-related industries than on cyclical industries, Pursell said Nebraska would face less difficult economic problems than the rest of the country in 1980.

Cyclical industry, Pursell explained, involves "heavy durables" such as automobiles and televisions. Pursell said that purchasing of these items is "commonly postponed in times of (economic) uncertainty" as is happening now in the United States.

He said that because Nebraska's economy is largely related to food processing, the state will see less of the recession.

"People cannot postpone eating," Pursell said. Pursell said although the nation has not officially entered a recession, most economists have a "general agreement" that it is inevitable.

The most-accepted definition of a recession, Pursell said, is a decline in the growth of the gross national product for two consecutive financial quarters.

IN 1979 the GNP was up for the first quarter, down in the second quarter, up in the third, and the fourth is yet to be seen, Pursell said.

Pursell made the following conclusions and predictions on Nebraska's economy from information he presented in the Nelson Lecture Series this fall:

—Real personal disposable income in Nebraska will approximate \$13 billion at the end of 1979, showing a 10 percent increase above the 1978 figure. Real personal disposable income, Pursell said, is "consumer purchasing power" after the subtraction of taxes and other charges assessed to employees. This personal income will be down 1 percent from last year.

—Following the decline in personal income, retail sales will be down 1 percent, Pursell said.

—Unemployment in Nebraska will be lower than national percentages. Nationally, unemployment for 1980 will be 7 percent, compared to about 4.5 percent for Nebraska. Pursell said that Nebraska labor patterns are changing and a "substantial amount of out-migration" from Nebraska is a cause of the lower unemployment rate.

—PURSELL PREDICTS a 29 percent increase in agriculture cash receipts for the fourth quarter of 1979 in Nebraska. He said that because the farming population approximates nearly one-third of Nebraska, a boost in the buying power of the farmer will ultimately affect the total economy.

—A weak spot in the economy is centered in urban areas, Pursell said, Metropolitan Omaha is one "area of concern" because its retail sales are running 6 percent above 1978 levels, but when an inflation of 12 percent is entered, real retail sales are down in Metro-Omaha, he said.

If disposable personal income continues to decline the second and third quarters of 1980, consumers will be purchasing less meat and less luxury items, Pursell said.

If the winter weather should prove harsh, higher oil prices paired with declining personal income will cause consumers to limit spending largely to necessities.

The predicted recession will be relatively mild in Nebraska if it ends in the second quarter of 1980 and Pursell said it is unlikely that a recession will continue after the first half of the coming year.

A recession will not flourish in an election year, according to Pursell.

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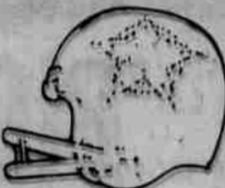

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